



MALLORY DeTOTA & LILY ABRAMS

BEST BUDDIES OF CENTRAL OHIO

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Our program today featured Best Buddies of Central Ohio. We heard from Area Director **Mallory De Tota** and Ohio Deputy Director **Lily Abrams**. **John Krauss** introduced the program.

Best Buddies provides friendship opportunities for intellectually or physically disabled school students who are paired with non-disabled students. The goal is to eliminate the sense of physical or emotional isolation which frequently occurs.

There are four pillars to the program.

- Friendship with a non-disabled peer
- Leadership development
- Employment – getting a job and on-the-job support
- Living day-to-day

The organization operates via chapters in schools (at no cost to the school) and the matches are made between fellow students. The one-to-one friendship matches feature regular day-to-day interaction along with scheduled monthly activities. Maintaining the relationship outside the school environment is also a part of the program. There are currently 48 school programs in Ohio. Two of those programs are at Upper Arlington High School and at Hastings Middle School. Overall, there are over 500 Central Ohio students involved at this time.

We met, and heard from Alice Rogers, a nine year Best Buddies member who originally became in-

involved at the Ohio State University chapter. She now lives on her own and has been employed for the past year. She shared her experiences with Best Buddies and how her leadership and public speaking skills have developed with the help of the organization. She is currently a member of the Advisory Board and an Adult Friendship participant.

The Adult Friendship program, also known as the Best Buddies Citizens program, is designed for participants who are 18 years of age or over. Participants meet a minimum of one time per month, and stay in contact via text or email as appropriate. There is currently a shortage of adult male friends to be paired with participants.

We saw a video highlighting the 2023 Student Leadership Conference which was held at Indiana University. The conference is an annual event at IU.

Funding for Best Buddies is provided through fundraising efforts/events, private or corporate donations and government sources. In Columbus an annual Friendship Walk is a fundraising event featuring a field day atmosphere. All are welcome, teams are encouraged to raise funds, and a casual stroll during the day satisfies the “Walk” part of the event title. This year’s event is scheduled for April 20 in Worthington.

Local private and corporate partnerships are an important source of support. Contribution tiers from \$250 to \$10,000 are available. A major Fall Gala is designed to encourage high dollar contributions. Tables can be purchased, silent auction items are available and teams are encouraged. Nominations for Champion of the Year are a part of the “competition”. The 2024 Fall Gala is scheduled for October 28.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

GREETERS

April 2

Don Leach
Kelly Marlow

April 9

Matt Hare
Yvonne Perotti

April 16

Frank Pacetta
Steve Rish

REGISTRATION DESK

April 2

Don Leach
Brian Bainbridge

April 9

J.D. Dickerson
Jim Nicklau

April 16

Dick Stone
Janine Hummer

CALENDAR

April 2 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Lori Wengerd, SCORE
Host: Debbie Johnson

April 9 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Tim Moloney, Franklin County Metro Parks
Host: Brendan King

April 16 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Ruchelle L Pride, Interim Director, Economic Development & Planning – Franklin County Restorative Justice Programs
Host: Jeanine Hummer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillien.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillien.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

APRIL 2ND

Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



THE MEETING



President **Andy Livingston** called the meeting to order and asked **Mike Turnbull** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, **John Cleland**, flying solo at today's registration desk, asked **Glen Dugger** to introduce his guest.

Andy noted that **Bill Hosket**, currently recovering from ankle surgery, will join us next week and conduct harassment. We have been warned.

He also commended **Jim Ayers** for his commitment to UA Rotary – keeping current with the club from the great state of Utah. **Celia Crossley** was recognized for achieving +3 Paul Harris Fellow status.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Chip Knoop reminded us of the Community Service Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, April 1 at 5:30 PM – First Community Church. There are currently no funding requests. If no requests come forward the meeting will not be held.

Chip also announced a Bed Brigade build opportunity on Saturday, April 6. We need five Rotarians to help out. Let Chip know if you're available.



John Krauss invited us to the "Wild West" on May 14 for the UA Rotary Fundraiser at the Amelita Morolo barn. It will be a blue jeans affair –but suits, sport coats and ties will be allowed if you insist. Bolo ties are welcome, of course.

SORTING OUT WHERE TO CONTRIBUTE

Where do your contributions go? There are three main organizations where we as Upper Arlington Rotarians direct our Rotary giving. Sometimes it can be confusing, so here is something to hopefully help keep things straight.

ORGANIZATION	DONATION DESIGNATIONS	ADDRESS	MEMBER CONTACT	EMAIL
Upper Arlington Rotary Club	Club dues	P.O. Box 12013 Columbus, OH 43212	Peggy Concilla	concillapl@gmail.com
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation	Annual \$365 and some other club funding requests	1704 Sundridge Dr. Columbus, OH 43221	Andy Livingston	andy.w.livingston@gmail.com
Rotary International Foundation	\$125 Club, Paul Harris and Polio Plus	244 Daniel Burnham Sq. Columbus, OH 43215	Debbie Johnson	debbiejohnson33@gmail.com